

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]]~~ An isolated Neisserial bleb preparation from a Neisserial meningococcal strain with an L3 lipooligosaccharide (LOS) immunotype wherein the Neisserial meningococcal strain has been genetically engineered to permanently downregulate the expression of functional gene product from the *lgtB* gene.

2. (Currently Amended): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 1, wherein the ~~Neisserial strain is a~~ Neisserial meningococcal strain is of serogroup B.

3. (Previously Presented): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 1, wherein the Neisserial strain cannot synthesize capsular polysaccharide.

4. (Previously Presented): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 3, wherein the Neisserial strain is genetically engineered to permanently downregulate the expression of functional gene product from at least one capsular polysaccharide gene selected from the group consisting of *ctrA*, *ctrB*, *ctrC*, *ctrD*, *synA*, *synB*, *synC*, and *siaD*.

5. (Previously Presented): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 1, wherein the Neisserial strain is genetically engineered to downregulate expression of functional gene product from the *msbB* and/or *htrB* genes.

6. (Previously Presented): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 1, wherein an outer membrane protein gene of the Neisserial strain is downregulated in expression compared to the native strain, wherein the downregulated outer membrane protein gene is selected from the group of: *PorA*, *PorB*, *OpA*, *OpC*, *PilC* or *FrpB*.

7. (Previously Presented): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 6, wherein the Neisserial strain has a combination of outer membrane protein genes downregulated in expression, wherein the combination of downregulated outer membrane protein genes is selected from the group of: *PorA* and *OpA*, *PorA* and *OpC*, *OpA* and *OpC*, *PorA* and *OpA* and *OpC*, *PorA* and *FrpB*, *OpC* and *FrpB*, *OpA* and *FrpB*, *PorA* and *OpA* and *OpC* and *FrpB*.

8. (Previously Presented): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 1, wherein an outer membrane protein antigen in the Neisserial strain is upregulated in expression as compared to the native strain, wherein the upregulated outer membrane protein antigen is selected from the group of: NspA, TbpA low, TbpA high, Hsf, Hap, OMP85, PilQ, NadA, LbpA, and MltA.

9. – 13. (Cancelled).

14. (Previously Presented): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 1, wherein the LOS is conjugated to a source of T-helper epitopes.

15. (Withdrawn): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 14, wherein the LOS is conjugated to the source of T-helper epitopes by a process of intra-bleb cross-linking.

16. (Previously Presented): An immunogenic composition comprising the Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

17. (Previously Presented): The immunogenic composition of claim 16, comprising an adjuvant.

18. (Previously Presented): The immunogenic composition of claim 16, further comprising a capsular polysaccharide or oligosaccharide, wherein the polysaccharide or oligosaccharide is from a bacterium selected from the group of: meningococcus serogroup A, meningococcus serogroup C, meningococcus serogroup W-135, meningococcus serogroup Y, and *H. influenzae* type b.

19. (Withdrawn): A process of manufacturing the immunogenic composition of claim 16, comprising the steps of:

culturing a IgTB⁻ Neisserial strain with an L3 LOS immunotype;
isolating blebs therefrom; and
formulating the blebs with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

20. (Withdrawn): The process of claim 19, comprising isolating the blebs by extracting with 0-0.5% deoxycholate.

21. – 52. (Cancelled).

53. (Withdrawn): The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 14 wherein the source of T-helper epitopes comprises a protein or outer membrane protein.

54. – 58. (Cancelled).

59. (Previously Presented) An isolated Neisserial bleb preparation from a Neisserial strain with an L3 LOS immunotype wherein the *lgtB* gene has been inactivated resulting in an intermediate LOS structure in which the terminal galactose residue and sialic acid are absent.

60. (Previously Presented) The Neisserial bleb preparation of claim 59, wherein the Neisserial strain is a Neisserial meningococcal strain of serogroup B.